

MEMORIAL SERVICE AT THE CENTER OF  
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Tributes from the Center of Theological Inquiry

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Chandler Brooks was my friend and he was the kind of man this world needs more of. He was a brilliant scientist who was not ashamed to be known as religious. He was an invaluable researcher who somehow retained a sense of the mystery and the meaning of life as a whole. And he was a Christian with a saving sense of humor.

I met him first in the kitchen here at the Center, which is a sort of neutral meeting ground for scientists and theologians. Not knowing any better, I asked him what he was here for. I did know this much about him, that he was a world famous physiologist and I was completely unprepared for his answer. He said: "I am trying to find out what the soul is". I stuttered a bit. I hadn't quite expected that kind of a question from a world-class scientist. And he went right on: "But what is it?", and I still stuttered. I'm an historian. I found out that my answer as I gave it then didn't quite satisfy him, because he kept digging (that was his way); he just kept digging away at a question.

Later, he told me: "I have spent most of my life studying the body, the human body, and that did not answer all my questions. So I've come here. But when I have asked a theologian what the soul was, he said: 'Well, we really don't use that word very much anymore'. That is the wrong kind of answer. If you want to get down to the root of things you don't just stop using a word. You have to find out what the word means, and that is what I am here for". So as I came to know him better, everyday my admiration increased. He was just the kind of a man that this Center needs. The whole world needs that kind of a man.

That brings me back to one final thing I want to remember about him, his sense of humor. He said to me one day with a twinkle in his eye: "You theologians! I don't understand all your theological jargon. But I suppose you don't understand mine either. Don't you think we ought to try a little harder to understand each other". That is what he brought to our Center. He came to us with a dry refreshing kind of humor that can take prickly needle-like questions and transform them into a ray of sunlight which drab, dry scientific and theological work-a-holics like us need very much. And I refuse to believe that kind of sunlight is no longer with us.

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CHANDLER McCUSKEY BROOKS  
THE SCIENTIST AND THE MAN

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